



State Senator • 19th District

Mark SCHAUER

News From Your State Capitol

How To Reach Mark Schauer

Lansing Office

Senator Mark Schauer
State Capitol • S-9

P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Toll-Free: 888.962.6275
Fax: 517.373.2964

E-Mail

SenMSchauer@senate.
michigan.gov

Web Address

www.senate.mi.gov/schauer

High-Tech Tax Credits Bring 125 Jobs to Jackson

Commonwealth Associates, a Jackson engineering firm that designs energy generation systems and integration products for alternative energy systems, is the recipient of a job development tax credit from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). The credit will enable the firm to hire 50 new highly-skilled employees, which will also generate at least 75 new related jobs.

Commonwealth was considering locating these jobs in their Atlanta, Georgia plant, but, thanks to this credit, the company was able to remain in Jackson while expanding their operations. "These tax cuts are

a great way to guide economic development," said Schauer.

"By working collaboratively with businesses and the MEDC, we are able to steer economic development in a manner that is beneficial in both the short and long run."

The MEDC credit, valued at nearly \$1 million, is a High Technology Tax Credit. Commonwealth will spend approximately \$2.8 million to add 12,000 square feet to its existing facility. Senator Schauer, at the request of the Enterprise Group of Jackson, worked with the MEDC to make sure that Commonwealth would qualify for the high-tech tax credits.

Schauer: "Long-Term Care is in Urgent Need of Reform"

In June, Senator Schauer hosted a Town Hall Meeting on Long-Term Care.

Senator Schauer will hold another town hall meeting on this subject in Jackson on September 26. The meetings are being held in conjunction with the release of recommendations by Governor Granholm's Long-Term Care Task Force.

The recommendations focus on the need for better distribution of long-term care resources. The Task Force found that, in order for the system to provide quality care

and remain financially solvent, the MI-Choice waiver program must be fully funded and long-term care workers need to be paid competitive wages.

Citizens shared their frustrations with navigating the long-term care system. Daily monitoring costs average \$43 per day if that person lives in their own home. It costs Medicaid \$140 per day to care for that same person in a nursing home, yet the current system makes it difficult for Medicaid recipients to obtain MI-Choice waivers. "Long-term

care reform is an urgent matter," said Senator Schauer. "It is a disservice to force citizens into nursing homes when it is often possible to provide appropriate care for less money at home."

Special thanks to Mary Bauer of the Area Agency on Aging Region III-B, Jane Church of the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging, Vaughn Thompson of the Service Employees International Union, and Norm DeLisle from the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition, who served on the panel with Senator Schauer.



Dear Neighbor,

Our region has shown many signs of progress and growth over the last year. Jackson is burgeoning in its “Cool City” status. In addition to the tax credits outlined in this newsletter, improvements like planned renovations in the Partnership Park neighborhood and road construction projects have given us infrastructure upgrades to attract the investment required to create new, good-paying, 21st Century jobs.

We are also working to strengthen our existing employers. Commonwealth Associates and Great Lakes Home Health and Hospice will enhance their operations with the help of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Additionally, we were able to secure state funding for the Jackson Community College Health Program and Information Commons.

As more exciting opportunities unfold, we will continue to focus on good-paying jobs, a safety net for our most vulnerable citizens, educational opportunities, and building vibrant communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the Michigan Senate. I look forward to another productive year!

Sincerely,

Mark Schauer

Schauer Continues Anti-Methamphetamine Efforts

Senator Schauer has introduced a resolution urging President Bush and Congress to reverse proposed cuts to federal funding for anti-methamphetamine programs and he has introduced several bills to continue to fight the methamphetamine plague. The proposed federal budget eliminates most of the funding for the state and local programs chiefly responsible for methamphetamine control.

Schauer's bills would require that sales of pseudoephedrine-based products be more restricted and that those “cooking” methamphetamine in the presence of children face stiff penalties. Schauer has championed these efforts because of the growth of methamphetamine production in Jackson County.

Schauer Pushes to Open up the MCCA

In February, Senator Schauer introduced legislation that would require the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association (MCCA) to disclose how it sets its per-vehicle catastrophic claims assessment. The MCCA pays for catastrophic medical benefits for auto accident victims. MCCA fees fluctuate annually and are a required

component of auto coverage, but consumers never have the opportunity to see how the fees are set. In March, the fees that all Michigan drivers must pay went up 12%, to a total of \$141.70 per vehicle.

The bill would force the MCCA to comply with the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act.

Jackson County Receives Grants to Protect Water Supply

Jackson and Concord will receive over \$250,000 from the Department of Environmental Quality in conjunction with Michigan's Abandoned Well Management Program. The funding will be used to plug abandoned wells that threaten local water supplies by allowing groundwater contamination. Senator Schauer supports this important measure to protect our supply of drinking water.

State Support Assists New Headquarters at Historic Site

Great Lakes Home Health and Hospice received a \$550,000 Brownfield Redevelopment tax credit to rehabilitate land for use as the organization’s new headquarters. The building is being constructed along the old prison wall on Cooper Street in Jackson.

Senator Schauer worked with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to secure the property transfer and negotiate tax credits for the project. Senator Schauer also worked with the Michigan Department of Transportation to address several infrastructure and access issues.

The company plans to invest more than \$5.5 million in private investment and create 125 additional full-time jobs over the next five years. The project site also provides space for another building on the north side of the property.

Jackson Receives Over \$250,000 in Road and Trail Construction Funds

In March, Jackson was awarded grants from the Michigan Department of Transportation to enhance the streetscape project and complete the Falling Waters Trail.

A gateway entrance to the Partnership Park neighborhood at Mechanic and Wesley Streets will be constructed. The grants also include \$70,000 for the purchase of the remaining

property needed to complete the Falling Waters Trail. Both of these projects will significantly enhance the quality of life in the Jackson community.

Schauer Teams Up With Granholm to Protect Michigan’s Children

Senator Schauer co-sponsored legislation to protect our children by prohibiting the sale or rental of violent or sexually explicit video games to anyone under the age of 18. The bill, passed by the Senate, is awaiting a vote in the Michigan House of Representatives.

Researchers agree that exposure to violent images can cause negative behaviors in children. The urgency of the legislation was underscored by a recent investigation conducted by the Granholm Administration. The undercover investigation found that children as young as age nine were able to purchase adult-rated video games.

In April, Senator Schauer held hearings on this important issue. Governor Granholm and child development experts testified in support of the legislation. Senator Schauer will continue to make protecting children from these games a top priority.

Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow

This February, Senator Schauer and Governor Granholm hosted a town hall meeting to discuss the Governor’s **Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow** plan and the economic challenges facing our region. The plan is designed to create 72,000 jobs and help Michigan evolve into a 21st Century economic force.

Business leaders spoke in support of the plan. They shared examples of how these incentives will encourage area businesses to continue to diversify their services and

strengthen the region’s already growing economy.

In May, Senator Schauer hosted a press conference at the Capitol with executives from high-tech companies in support of Governor Granholm’s bond proposal to diversify and grow the state’s economy. The proposal will focus resources in four key technology areas: life sciences, alternative energies, advanced automotive manufacturing, and homeland security technology.

Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow includes:

- An unprecedented billion-dollar investment in high-technology and other growth fields to encourage entrepreneurship and new business development;
- A restructuring of the Single Business Tax to evenly distribute the tax burden among businesses and bring tax cuts to three quarters of the Michigan businesses that pay the tax; and
- \$800 million worth of community development and infrastructure investment.



State Senator
Mark Schauer

P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536



PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT NO. 1200

Schauer Recognized for Service

Senator Schauer received the Legislator of the Year Award from Lifeways, which provides services to the developmentally disabled and mentally ill in Jackson County. Lifeways presented the award in recognition of Schauer's continued work on behalf of vulnerable citizens, including the "Health Care for All" program for the uninsured.

Senator Schauer also received the 2004 Distinguished Service Award from the Southwest Michigan Chapter of the American Public Works Association. The award is given to individuals who support public

works efforts and infrastructure planning and development. Senator Schauer's active promotion of infrastructure improvements has helped many communities provide parks, public buildings, roads, and sewers.

In June, Senator Schauer received accolades from his colleagues as one of the most effective legislators in Lansing. A survey conducted by the Michigan

Information and Research Service rated Schauer as one of the most effective Senators in Michigan.



Jackson County Receives Homeland Security Funds

Governor Granholm announced that Jackson County would receive over \$500,000 in Homeland Security funding. A Homeland Security Grant will provide \$433,037 for security operations, and an additional \$161,591 will go toward Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention.

"This grant assures that homeland security and emergency management programs in our region will be developed and implemented quickly and efficiently," Sen. Schauer said. "Our communities will benefit from expedited preparedness measures. This is a tremendous benefit to the safety and well-being of our region."

Grant for At-Risk Kids

Highfields, Inc., a non-profit that works with at-risk youth and their families in Jackson, received a \$113,775 grant from the Department of Human Services for its before-school and after-school programs. The grant provides funding for after-school homework assistance as well as pregnancy and violence prevention, anger management, drug awareness, and other programs to guide development.

In addition, Albion-area children will also benefit from a grant secured by Sen. Schauer for summer and after-school programs.

Senator Schauer has been a long-time supporter of early childhood programs and services for at-risk families and children.

We Are Here to Help

Senator Schauer and his staff are here to help you with any problems you might be experiencing with state or local government. They help thousands of constituents every year to cut through bureaucratic red tape and resolve problems. If you have a concern or a question, please don't hesitate to contact us.

